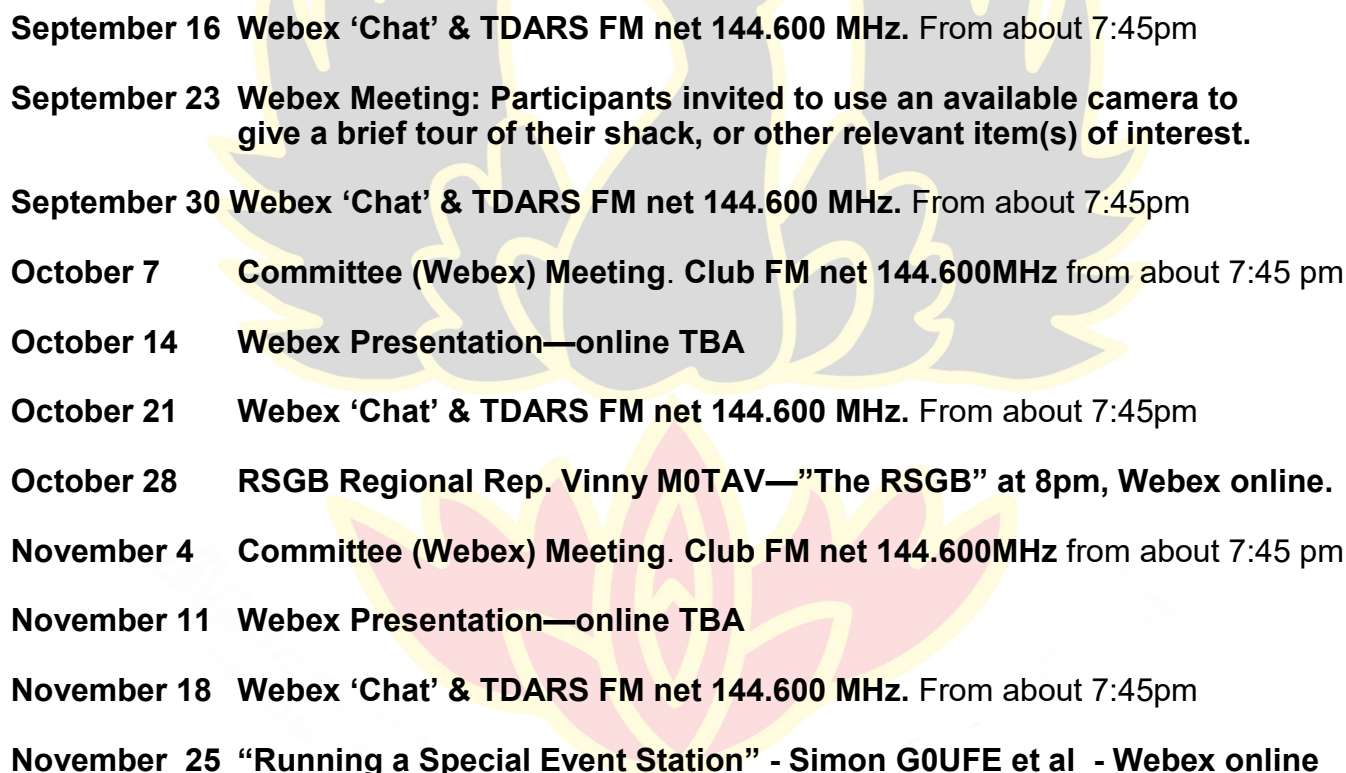


www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

Dates and Events that follow are subject to change at short notice.

- 
- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| September 16 | Webex ‘Chat’ & TDARS FM net 144.600 MHz. From about 7:45pm |
| September 23 | Webex Meeting: Participants invited to use an available camera to give a brief tour of their shack, or other relevant item(s) of interest. |
| September 30 | Webex ‘Chat’ & TDARS FM net 144.600 MHz. From about 7:45pm |
| October 7 | Committee (Webex) Meeting. Club FM net 144.600MHz from about 7:45 pm |
| October 14 | Webex Presentation—online TBA |
| October 21 | Webex ‘Chat’ & TDARS FM net 144.600 MHz. From about 7:45pm |
| October 28 | RSGB Regional Rep. Vinny M0TAV—”The RSGB” at 8pm, Webex online. |
| November 4 | Committee (Webex) Meeting. Club FM net 144.600MHz from about 7:45 pm |
| November 11 | Webex Presentation—online TBA |
| November 18 | Webex ‘Chat’ & TDARS FM net 144.600 MHz. From about 7:45pm |
| November 25 | “Running a Special Event Station” - Simon G0UFE et al - Webex online |

It is planned to share a presentation on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month

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For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Don M0TBQ.

For “Beyond Exams” scheme (Club or Individual) —enquiries to Graham G7LMF

For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.

Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: Contact Graham G7LMF training@tdars.org.uk

Editorial

First, an extract from a message from our Chairman sent out early in September:-

"Hello all,

Firstly, I hope that you and all your family are well and staying safe. It's been just on six months since we all last met at Little Wenlock Village Hall and at the moment I am not quite sure when we will be back there again, hopefully early next year. It's been a strange time with the lockdown but a great time to play radio, get or build new equipment or even redecorate your shack, like me. It's been 35 years since it was last done.

A lot of the activities we were going to do have been cancelled until further notice, International Marconi Weekend, 6Metre Trophy, VHF NFD and the Telford Hamfest, which should have been taking place this weekend, The AGM will take place next March, please read John M0JZH's letter in Martyn G3UKV's newsletter. (page 3).

The committee have been busy trying to keep things ticking along by organising meetings and talks on Webex, organised and hosted by Graham G7LMF; thanks Graham.

At the beginning of lockdown we had 43 paid up club member but that number has dropped to 32 (now c.37- Ed) The committee found that it was unfair for non members to have access to the same benefits that paid up members enjoyed, so Webex will be from this coming week a Members only event. So to get an invitation to join a WebEx meeting you must be a fully paid up member. If you are a paid up member but do not get a 'Join meeting' invite please contact our treasurer Paul M0PLA to get you back on the invitation list. (treasurer@tdars.org.uk—Ed)

I also must mention the new licensees Chris, Barry, David, Jeremy and Tony, five of them now with 2E0 calls. Well done guys, I look forward to us all going out and putting on some special event stations in the future.

Finally I would like to thank all of you for supporting T.D.A.R.S. in these uncertain times and again I look forward to seeing all soon.

73 & stay safe - Simon G0UFE "

To Simon's comments above, I would like to emphasize some of the benefits of Membership. First of all, TDARS has twice been voted 'UK Club of the Year' by the RSGB Board—no mean feat. We have always had a range and variety of activities, including portable mini-expeditions to all corners of the UK/ Channel Isles, weekly meetings, equipment to loan, nets, DF hunts, outside guest speakers, A.R. licence training, bi-monthly Newsletter, Website, Special Event Stations, contest successes, construction projects and trophies, annual HamFest, surplus equipment sales and more.

The annual subscription is just £30, or £24 for 'non-earners' (students, retirees etc) - far less than numerous other clubs and Societies. Without the HamFest, our wings would be clipped, or the sub. would increase. Many of these benefits are shared by non tdars members, but without a committed and loyal membership, they simply wouldn't happen. It has been mentioned that we no longer have to pay for hiring the Little Wenlock Village Hall, but we still have to pay for AC power for the radio beacons (X 4) and GB3TF up there, plus Insurance, RSGB club membership, postage costs and various other lesser costs listed by the club's Treasurer at the usual AGM. In 2018-19, expenditure exceeded £2K, excluding purchase of new equipment.

It has been suggested that this Newsletter could be made only available to Members—which is quite tempting in present circumstances, but I believe it shines a light on what the Telford Radio Society undertakes and offers to the amateur radio community at large, so it will continue to be circulated via the tdars groups.io online reflector as well as on the club website. (www.tdars.org.uk).

Have Simon and I pricked a few consciences? I hope so... Show your support for TDARS!

Paul (M0PLA, hon treas. for tdars) invites renewals for 2020/21, ideally using BACS transfer, with the HSBC **Branch code 40-44-50 and account number 21413066**. Include your name or callsign in the details box to identify you. Any queries e-mail to treasurer@tdars.org.uk

MIV

TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY : 2019-21

CHAIRMAN: Simon Bird G0UFE (telfordslivewire@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01952 401018)

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (ukv@ukv.me.uk Tel:01952 255416)

SECRETARY: John Humphreys M0JZH (m0jzh@yahoo.co.uk Tel:07824 737716)

TREASURER: Paul Athersmith M0PLA (paul.athersmith@gmail.com Tel:07966 969230)

CURATOR : Don Nicholls M0TBQ (donsnicholls@outlook.com Tel: 01952 411680)

TRAINING and 'Beyond Exams': Graham Cowan G7LMF (training@tdars.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416 or 07421 001166)

PUBLICITY/WEBMASTER : Dave G0CER (davekh@gmail.com)

Committee: Brian G6UDX; Graham G7LMF; Ian M0IRP; Village Hall Committee Liaison officer Martin 2E0TRO. QSL Manager Paul M0PNN; Assist Curator: Chris 2E0EOH; Trophies/Certs: Martyn G3UKV.



Qtc: News & Information



**TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING HELD NORMALLY AT
LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL
NO MEETINGS AT LWVH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE (Covid-19)**

**Please note: A current membership card may be required to borrow
TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .**

TDARS Committee response to the Editorial item (page 2, July/Aug Newsletter) :-

“ Thank you to all of those who took the time to read and consider the feelings of the membership for the committee to continue until the next committee meeting ‘as is’ during the current pandemic. To refresh, the question asked was:

“The Committee has also decided to simply cancel the TDARS 2020 AGM which should have taken place last March 25th. All the committee members listed at the foot of the page have agreed to continue in post for the time being. If any member has a comment or objection to this decision they are asked to contact the Society’s secretary John M0JZH secretary@tdars.org.uk).”

At the time of writing (31st August 2020), there has been just one communication from the 43 members who were able to vote at the AGM and therefore it is taken as 42 for and 1 against, thus giving agreement, by the membership, for the Committee to carry on ‘as is’ until the next scheduled AGM - expected date 31st March 2021.

At this moment it is expected that we will have a face to face AGM in 2021. However until we can see any impact that any Winter second wave of the virus has, we cannot fully be sure. If we do get to that time and are not back at the Village Hall, then further consideration will be needed with the possibility of a further consultation with the membership requested – this could be either in a written and/or internet (Webex) format, to be determined as the situation and circumstances permit. “

TDARS has had a **very generous donation** from Bob M0RJS.

Bob and Jackie are moving very shortly to a smaller QTH in Alsager, Cheshire. The new QTH will severely limit any antenna erection, so Bob’s HD P60 Tower, complete with Stepp-IR 3 element HF beam on a rotator has been donated to the Club. By agreement, it has already been moved across to 2W0FOI. Robert’s QTH at the old Criggion MW site just inside Wales, where there is plenty of room and no immediate neighbours to object. Martyn G3UKV and Robert faced quite a challenge to remove the items, but Robert has already managed to place the antenna at its new resting place, and checked out the rotator and HF beam controls. Robert has offered club Members access and use of these splendid assets by prior arrangement. Many, many thanks to both Bob and Robert for their generosity.



<<OLD SITE

NEW SITE >>>>



[photos: 2W0FOI]

The **July VHF NFD contest results** were published early in August. RSGB don't appear to have given an overall club result for the weekend, but here are TDARS results band by band, with members listed who sent in an entry for the specific band. We hope it will encourage others to have a go when TDARS is entering a contest - even a few QSOs can make a difference when included in a club entry. We know other TDARS members were active, but apparently they have not sent in their entry, which means loss of potential points. Apologies if anyone has been left out of the listings.

50 MHz 22 out of 82 entries - G8AQA, G3UKV, G0CER
70 MHz 26 out of 52 entries - G3UKV
144 MHz 17 out of 82 entries - G0CER, G8AQA, M7KBO, G3UKV
432 MHz 28 out of 68 entries - G8AQA, G3UKV
1296 MHz 19 out of 26 entries - G3UKV, G8AQA

Dave, G0CER, has always been a keen contester, and as well as getting involved in the rather oddly named 'Field Day' event above, entered the IOTA (Islands on the Air) contest at the end of July. Here's his report:-

" I'm pleased to learn today that in this years 'different' IOTA contest in the class that I take part in, I got top points. [SSB, power<100 watts, 24 hour—Ed]

This was more a stay-cation IOTA with many rare islands not having foreigners go there to activate them, but plenty of locals activated islands all over the globe, but IOTA stations were well down on previous years. I made 243 QSOs this year against 186 last year. I notice that there were more than double the entrants in the section I always take part in 119 as opposed to 49 last year.

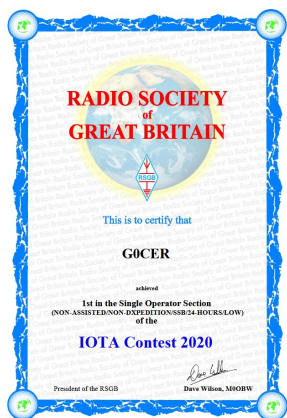
Details of the section i entered are:

- I'm a Non-DXexpedition station
- I only used SSB, I was in the low power (100w).section
- I entered 24Hours part
- I was none-assisted (I'm careful with this - no dx clusters!).

Last year I came 3rd, but top UK station, and won the GMDX low power trophy that I've yet to receive.



I was using my Inverted L wire which is located 20m down the garden - a balun then up 10m pole and back past the house for to be 30m flat and also a Comet H-422 which is the same as the club used (a bargain Hamfest buy a few years ago !). I used my Yaesu FT950 with N1MM+ software. I was going to comment on DX - but really there wasn't anything special just EU & AS islands nothing else - I even had 6 hours sleep - I suspect many others did too.



Once you've got your station going a 24 hour contest like IOTA is down to strategy, when to go on what bands - not to miss the short lifts on high bands and when to harvest European none-IOTA stations (lower) points on 40/80m during the time when point-making stations (IOTA islands) are not around. I'll be back next year all being well.

Here's the cert. I might find a picture frame for this one. The RSGB are not giving trophies out this year - but whatever, I've done what I wanted to do, wallpaper fades. Better next time ! "

Thanks for Newsletter input this time:

**Paul M0PLA, Peter G4URT, John M0JZH, Robert 2W0FOI,
Simon G0UFE, Jez 2E0JXW, Mike G3JKX, Mike G6DFD, Martyn G3UKV,
Paul M0PNN, Paul G8AQA, Dave G0CER, Heather M0HMO, Dave G8VZT**
Next edition November/Dec. 2020

Please keep it coming— Don't just leave it to someone else !

Online Foundation and Intermediate exams have become a reality this year—as proven by local progress. Tony M7KBO is now 2E0PZM, Jeremy (Jez) M7JCW now 2E0JXW, Barry M7JBT is now 2E0RNN, David M7VXR becomes 2E0VXV, Chris M7CJF should be 2E0*** any day now. Also, unknown to many of us, John Alexander—ex M6JAZ—has been heard sporting M0XJA. Congratulations to all.

Paul M0PNN has followed up one of the earlier TDARS construction projects to help others build an ***Auto-ATU design by N7DDC***. Here is his e-mail sent 01/09/20:-

Builders: 2E0DTB, G3ZPS, G4WIF, G8INE, M0BMN, 2W0FOI, G7LMF, M0KZB, M0PNN

“ I have the ATU boards and I have fitted and programmed the PIC chip on them all. I have also soldered all the surface mount parts in on all the boards.

I am two-thirds of the way through building a test unit. I have all the parts apart from 3 Mica caps—the ones I ordered from China were very poor. I have ordered more from the UK. Have a read of the manual for the ATU and see what options you wish to use. I can edit the source code as per the instructions. The cost so far is £20.50 plus postage to you. “ [- which is an incredibly low price; well done Paul—Ed.]

Other amateur radio Covid-19 'goings on' locally have incl. the following (email date in brackets)

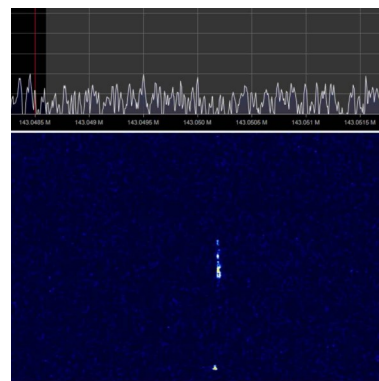
Mike G3JKX (25/7) Given away a few points on a few contests, completely re-ordered the shack. Installed a new 22" monitor for use with an SDR. (RSP1A). Repaired an old valve radio. (new dial cord) Much queuing at the Council tip to get rid of en-tee-en years of 'might come in usefals' and much gardening.

Paul M0PNN (25/7) Blown up a drone PA. Ordered and fitted new drone TX into old PA box. Soldered 700 0805 smt parts. Working on Oscar 100 TX. Made a voice keyer for ic 9700. All while working 14 days on, two off. Worked a couple of new ones on 6m now 112 (countries).

Jeremy 2E0JXW (7/8) ...thought for the benefit of the trainers and other new licence holders, that I'd share the fact that I managed to capture some SSTV from the ISS this week.

Equipment was simple in the end: The Baofeng UV5R with 15" retevis whip, held horizontally, sideways on to the ISS and my android phone running robot36. There's a bit of noise at the top where I've adjusted my position and the tuning of the radio. There's a bit of noise in the middle as I had to manually adjust again to accommodate the doppler shift as the ISS passed over. The UV5R will only adjust in 2.5kHz steps so it was difficult to get a very clean signal.

Heather MOHMO (8/8) For those who would like a different take on using radio during a meteor shower, the Perseids are a great chance to do some radio based meteor counting without the need to go outside and get cold or rained on. Basically with a simple 6 pounds blue (or black) SDR dongle, the free SDR# software (or anything better as long as you can get it into a soundcard and into a PC) and a 2m antenna, you can pick up the Graves transmitter (in France) signal when it is reflected from the ionisation trails of the meteors on 143.050 MHz. I gave a presentation to the Shropshire Astronomical Society on doing this (it is on my website at myorangedragon.com under Astronomy/Meteors). Attached is a pic of a meteor trace from last year's shower. You can get up to 200 an hour from the radio which can be 5 times as many as the visual observers can see and it works in the rain !



TDARS nets:- (All times local time. Frequencies subject to QSY as availability permits)

Mondays, Fridays: 3657 KHz SSB 08:45 am

Wednesdays:144.600 MHz FM Usually from about 19:45

Sundays: 144.600 MHz FM 21:00

Anyday: 144.325 MHz SSB net—evenings

Anyday/Anytime: 145.500 MHz FM—QSY to clear channel. Often 145.550 MHz

Anyday/Anytime: GB3TF FM Voice/Digital (Fusion) Repeater: Output 433.200 MHz

If you wish to join the TDARS on-line Reflector group, you need initially to subscribe to Groups.io (if not already a subscriber) and then look for “tdars” and apply to join this group. If this is a problem, contact Martyn G3UKV. Most TDARS members belong.


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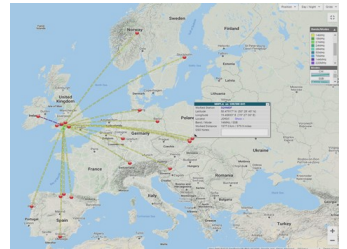
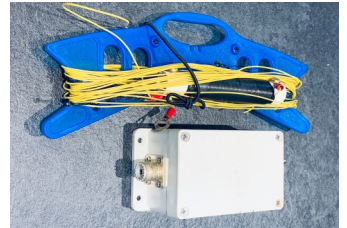
Homebrew Antennas by Paul M0PLA

Hi All —As most of you know, I like to build my own antennas and test them out on mountain tops along with my SOTA activations. Over the last few weeks, I have been playing with MMANA-Gal trying to find a good 2m Yagi. There are plenty to choose from on the internet, so I had a good look and took parts from one and parts from another and came up with my own version. (last page—Ed)



I have also re-designed/made my EFHW (end fed half wave). The old version had a weight of 315 grams and the new one is 138 grams including the spooler and guy. This was tested on Bank Holiday Monday on the Black Mountain down on the Brecon Beacons. The attached map of the activations proves that with 5 watts and a good antenna you can work 1000 miles with a signal report back of 5/7.

 At present I am re-building my linked dipole; at the present it is a linked dipole for 60m – 20m with croc clips to change bands. I have seen a great video of an American making some Pico traps which I played around with about 3 years ago. I have made the 20m traps so far (previous page—Ed) and over the next week or so will finish the rest, then plan a mountain trip to test this out.



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Latest TDARS UKAC scores: (as at 7 Sept.) 'Normalised', with 1000 points max. per band.

50MHz 113, 70MHz 93, 144MHz 138, 432MHz 31, 1296MHz 91, SHF 76 - which places us 21st out of 38 local UK clubs entering.

Microwave entries G3ZME/P and G6ZME/P (UK microwave group contests) - G8AQA-M0HMO + G3UKV-G8UPF operated from summit of the Brown Clee in August, and came 1st. on 5.7GHz and runner-up on 10GHz. The two stations (and all ops.) kept well apart to maintain 'social distancing'.

Robert 2W0FOI has sent a series of photos showing the travel and installation of **the new TDARS P60 Strumech** tower at his Criggion MW QTH in August :



Ready to depart from Scholar Green (M0RJS QTH)



Arrival at Criggion



So much easier to move
with a fork lift truck . .



6 x 16' Beamy bits, rotator and tuning servos etc.



P60 Base on its new elevated plinth. Will be installed in the middle not as currently positioned. A two man lift was just possible. Think I need to do a bit of tree surgery.

Useful websites: Paul M0PNN: Useful morse code site with some great practice files.
<https://www.morsecode.ninja/practice/index.html>

Peter G4URT for buying rigs:—HamRadioDeals <https://www.hamradiodeals.co.uk/forums/index.php> and G3CWI on-line Flea market <http://pub29.bravenet.com/classified/show.php?usernum=2477864602&cp=1>

Graham G7LMF "best" Random Wire Antenna Lengths that also lists those lengths you should not use!
<http://www.hamuniverse.com/randomwireantennalengths.html>

Paul G8AQA (11/7) wrote:

I am still looking for an HF full power linear but have bought an AMU (ATU) on Ebay. It is an MFJ-962C. It says 1.5kW but one needs to beware of these ratings. This tuner will handle 800W PEP on 80-10m and 500W PEP on 160m and 500W continuous on all bands. The 1.5 kW is the DC input to the final stage of a valve transmitter. Very misleading.

I chose this model against the later MFJ-962D, as this has a roller coaster (continuously variable) inductor. These have a bad reputation for reliability. The switched inductor seems to be more reliable. Tuning with the switched inductor gives perfectly good results when one gets the hang of it. Usually an SWR or 1:1 is achieved.



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From Graham, G7LMF, TDARS Training Secretary link with RSGB (4/09/20)



“I know that most who had planned to go to Intermediate level have now done so, but to help newcomers find out about amateur radio Online Training the RSGB has created a page with links to all the known online training resources:

The Society lists online courses for both Foundation and Intermediate, at the present time there are no courses available for Full.

See the Online Training Resources page at

<https://rsgb.org/main/clubs-training/for-students/online-training-resources-for-students/>

In addition the Foundation and Intermediate pages have been updated to provide information on the courses

<https://rsgb.org/main/clubs-training/for-students/foundation/>

<https://rsgb.org/main/clubs-training/for-students/intermediate/>

~+~

AND FINALLY. . . Whatever happened to Telford HamFest 2020 ?
Here's a few reminders from 2019:

